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**Message or Special Instructions:**USPN: 09/512,742

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PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: S-3-1

On OCTOBER 13, 2004  
By [Signature]  
Richard R. Batt

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

RONALD A. UNDERWOOD et al.

Application No.: 09/512,742

Filed: February 24, 2000

For: METHODS FOR  
ELECTROSURGICAL TISSUE  
CONTRACTION WITHIN THE SPINE (AS  
AMENDED)

Examiner: Lee S. Cohen

Art Unit: 3739

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed July 13, 2004, for which a response is due October 13, 2004. Thus, this response is timely filed.